

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

2003

JUN 22, 1954
EST. DATE

On the morning of 14 June 1954 (See Guat ArEmb Tel 1005, 15 Jun to SEC STATE) American who lives on outskirts of town was shown three bullet-riddled bodies lying in a side alley near his house. When police arrived two hours later, each corpse was clutching pistol which had not been there before. Identities of deceased unknown but they are presumed victims of Government terror.

AMEMB GUAT CITY, EMBTEL 1044, 19 June noon - Bradshaw, Pres INOA RRA, reports Carlos Jose Arzano i Altamirós whom he described as Chief of Propaganda Office of National Agrarian Department last night sent telegram from Bananera to Pres. Arbenz, Chief of Armed Forces, Chief of Police, and labor leaders warning them 100 Hondurans were in Champona and 5000 local (Guat?) men were back of them.

GUAT CITY EMBTEL 1045, 19 June, 1 pm. - Re Lt. Col. Luis URRUTIA, active Guat AF Ofcr who took asylum in Salv Emb, Guat City on morning 19 June ---- Urrutia also had said 90% Guat AF Ofcers would leave country within 48 hours; they had discussed this among themselves and were in full agreement.

GUAT CITY EMBTEL 1050, 20 Jun 4 pm --- In Conversation with me this morning, Foreign Minister Toriello alleged rebel plane had landed in Mexico after being struck by government bullets and that its crew were American citizens, one of whom was wounded. He added Mexican Govt had confirmed this report.

(Has this been confirmed???)

GUAT CITY EMBTEL 1040, 18 Jun, 7 pm --- House owned by Col. Mendoza in South Central Guatemala destroyed by fire following air sweep this afternoon. Neighbors report fire openly started by police. (Emb. URRUTIA acc. to CAS.)
set fire

TEL UNNUMBERED, 18 JUNE FROM BUENAVENTURA --- PBY 46477 purchased Colombian airline SERACO (ed. believed to mean Servicio Aero Colombiano) ferried American pilots Lee Crutcher, Douglas Maclean forced landing 16th San Jose, Guat. Guat authorities refuse information. Believe pilots held incommunicado. Request your intervention. /s/ Helen Crutcher, SERACO

RE: Plane Incident near Guatemalan/Mexican Border

Radio Liberacion (clandestine) in Spanish 0407 6/22

.....News that one of our planes crashed in Mexico and was flown by an American are false. None of our planes have been shot down, and all our flyers are Guatemalans.....

X authorities refuse information. Believe pilots held incommunicado. Request your intervention. /s/ Helen Crutcher, SERACO

RE: Foreign Intervention

The following is taken from FEID tape:

Paris AFP Radioteletype in French to the Americas 2303 6/21

(Text) In another message addressed to the chairman of the Security Council and made public together with the message of Guatemala, Mr. VALENZUELA, Foreign Affairs Minister of Honduras, denies that any plane based in Honduras had at any time flown over Guatemala. Loyal to its good neighbor policy, Mr. VALENZUELA's message goes on, Honduras did not authorize the forces which have invaded Guatemala to organize themselves on her territory.

Mr. VALENZUELA said that he is in a position to prove that all the accusations of intervention which have been made against Honduras are false.

X authorities refuse information. Believe pilots held incommunicado. request
intervention. /s/ Helen Crutcher, SERICO

RE: BOMBINGS

The following is taken from T-1D tape:

London Reuters Radioteletype in English to New York 1200 6/22

(excerpts) Guatemala City - Here, in the capital, the situation is almost normal, with stores open and NO AIR RAIDS early in the day. Private automobiles, kept off the streets for three days by a gasoline ban, reappeared when the government allowed filling stations to sell each customer 5 gallons yesterday.

There appeared to be little response to the Government's call for cars and taxis to carry government forces to the battle zone -- the way Paris taxis carried French soldiers to the World War I Battle of the Marne.

Shots were heard here during the night in the midst of a 20-minute air alert, BUT NO BOMBS FELL.

... landing 10th San Jose, Guat. Guat
authorities refuse information. Believe pilots held incommunicado. Request
your intervention. /s/ Helen Crutcher, SERACO